

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 8-11 and 12-13 were objected to for certain informalities. In response, claim 4 has been amended to remove the informality noted by the Examiner, and claims 8 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice. Further, claims 1-7, 10-11 and 13 have been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice, such as beginning the claims with 'The', and changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--. Claims 1-7, 10-11 and 13 were not amended in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 9-11 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice, and claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 9. Further, claims 10-11

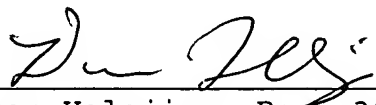
have been amended to change dependence thereof from canceled claim 9 to claim 1. Further, new claims 14-20 have been added, where new independent claims 14 and 18 include features similar to those of allowable claim 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 14 and 18 should be allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-7, 10-11, 13, 15-17 and 19-20 should also be allowed at least based on its dependence from amended independent claims 1, 14 and 18.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required for entrance of the accompanying amendment, they may be charged to applicant's representatives Deposit Account No. 50-3649. In addition, please credit any overpayments related to any fees paid in connection with the accompanying amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3649.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.


Respectfully submitted,

By 
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